

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please CANCEL claims 1, 3-10, 13-15, 19, and 20 without prejudice to or disclaimer of their subject matter.

Please AMEND claims 11 and 16-18, and ADD claims 21 and 22, as follows:

1-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus in which after a toner image formed on an image bearing member provided in an image forming portion is transferred to a sheet, the toner image is fixed in a fixing portion, said image forming apparatus comprising:

a sheet feeding ~~means for feeding~~ portion, which feeds stored sheets one by one;

a sheet transport path, said sheet transport path transporting the sheet fed out by said sheet feeding ~~means~~ portion to said fixing portion, wherein the sheet transport path has a curved sheet transport path portion ~~disposed between the image bearing member and the sheet feeding means~~; and

a regulation portion disposed between ~~member provided on a downstream side of~~ the curved sheet transport path portion and the fixing portion in said sheet transport path,

wherein the regulation portion comprises a transport guide and a rotary member arranged away from the transport guide by a predetermined distance, and the rotary member is, ~~and arrange away from the sheet transported in said sheet transport path by a~~

~~predetermined distance, and being~~ brought into contact with a swelling portion occurring on a surface of an envelope curved by the curved sheet transport path portion to press the swelling portion in the event that the envelope is fed out by said sheet feeding ~~means~~ portion as the sheet.

12-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the predetermined ~~[[a]]~~ distance between said ~~regulation~~ rotary member and the ~~envelope~~ transport guide is set to a value in a range between 0.5 mm and 3.0 mm.

17. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus in which after a toner image formed on an image bearing member provided in an image forming portion is transferred to a sheet, the toner image is fixed in a fixing portion, said image forming apparatus comprising:

a sheet feeding portion, which feeds stored sheets one by one ~~said sheet feeding portion being provided with a rotatable sheet feeding roller provided in contact with an upper surface of stacked sheets;~~

a sheet transport path, said sheet transport path being disposed between said sheet feeding portion and said fixing portion, wherein the sheet transport path has a curved sheet transport path ~~portion disposed between the image bearing member and the sheet feeding portion;~~
and

ribs disposed between ~~a regulation member provided on a downstream side of~~
the curved sheet transport path portion and the fixing portion in said sheet transport path, ~~and~~
~~being disposed a predetermined distance spaced from an envelope to be transported in the event~~
~~that the envelope is fed out by said sheet feeding portion as the sheet,~~

wherein the ribs press ~~regulation member presses~~ a swelling portion occurring
on a surface of the envelope curved by the curved sheet transport path portion in the event the
envelope is fed out by said sheet feeding portion as the sheet.

18. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim
17, wherein ~~a~~ the distance between said ~~regulation member~~ ribs and the envelope is set to a value
in a range between 0.5 mm and 3.0 mm.

19-20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) An image forming apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said
ribs are disposed at a location facing each of opposite end portions of the envelope with respect
to a direction perpendicular to a transport direction of the envelope being passed through said
sheet transport path.

22. (New) An image forming apparatus according to claim 17, further
comprising two pairs of rotary members provided in said sheet transport path for transporting the
sheet and disposed along a direction perpendicular to a sheet transport direction, and holding

means for rotatably holding said respective rotary members which are to be brought into contact with the inner-side surface of the curved envelope at said two pairs of rotary members, and wherein said ribs are disposed in said holding means.